



Plaintiff D.G., a minor by and through Loidy Tang as Next Friend (“Plaintiff”), submits this memorandum in opposition to Collecto, Inc., d/b/a EOS CCA, d/b/a CCA Collection Agency’s (“Defendant”) motion to dismiss Plaintiff’s claim brought under the Telephone Communication Protection Act (“TCPA”) arguing that Plaintiff lacks standing because, in defendant’s view, the “called party” is the party defendant intended to call, rather than the party it, in fact, called.

As explained below, the motion to dismiss should be denied because plaintiff is the person the TCPA is intended to protect: the person whose cell phone is called. Plaintiff was the person who was annoyed by these incessant calls, and it is upon plaintiff that TCPA confers the right to injunctive relief to make these calls stop.

To interpret the term “called party” as the “intended called party” under the TCPA as Defendant suggests, would be contrary to the plain language of the statute, the technical requirement set forth in 47 U.S.C. § 227(d)(3)(B), the intent of the statute, FCC Orders, case law and would make the remedy provisions of TCPA § 227(b)(3) meaningless. Therefore, Defendant’s motion should be denied.

### **FACTS**

Plaintiff resides in the Northern District of Illinois and has a cellular telephone number ending with the digits 3747 which is a number to which Plaintiff regularly receives telephone calls to. (Am. Compl. ¶¶ 6, 18, 19, 22).

Plaintiff did not provide any express prior consent for Defendant to call Plaintiff’s cellular telephone. (Am. Compl. ¶¶ 2, 31). Indeed, upon Defendant’s first call it placed to Plaintiff, Plaintiff informed Defendant that it was calling the wrong number. (Am. Compl. ¶ 14). However, Defendant continued to place 11 subsequent calls to Plaintiff’s cell phone even though

it was on notice that it was calling the wrong number. (Am. Compl. ¶¶ 3, 14, 22).

Defendant originally intended to call the telephone number ending in the digits 3747 a reach a person whose telephone number corresponded with the telephone number ending in the digits 3747, but reached Plaintiff instead because the 3747 number is Plaintiff's cell phone number at the time the calls were placed. (See Am. Compl. ¶¶ 14, 19).

Ignoring the information in its files that it was calling the wrong telephone number, using its predictive dialer, Defendant placed eleven phone calls to Plaintiff's cell phone and left at least one prerecorded message, with text-to-speech computerized capabilities inserting the name Chivette Nelson into the message, as follows:

Hello this is a message for [different voice] Chivette Nelson [different voice], If you are not [different voice] Chivette Nelson [different voice] please hang up or disconnect if you are [different voice] Chivette Nelson please continue to listen to this message. By continuing to listen to this message you acknowledge you are [different voice] Chivette Nelson, there will now be a three second pause: [3 second pause begins] This is CCA Collection Agency, this is an attempt to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose. Please contact me about an important business matter today by 9pm eastern standard time my call back number 18668787684 ext 14119 when calling please use reference number please use [different voice] 38054469 thank you.

(Am. Compl. ¶¶ 14, 19-20, 22).

Plaintiff does not know and is not Chivette Nelson. (Am. Compl. ¶ 20).

Defendant is a member of ACA International which has distributed information to its members through its "Fast Fax" informational publications that the TCPA and FDCPA applies to both debtors and non-debtors alike and liability can attach to called numbers that are not that of the debtor; wrong numbers. (Am. Compl. ¶¶ 26, 28).

### **ARGUMENT**

A Rule 12(b)(1) motion is used to challenge whether under Article III of the Constitution a plaintiff has standing. *Lee v. City of Chicago*, 330 F.3d 456, 459 (7th Cir. 1993) (analyzing

the defendant's 12(b)(1) motion as to standing and its 12(b)(6) motion as to the merits of the case); *See also e.g. Pollack v. United States DOJ*, 577 F.3d 736, 738-39 (7th Cir. 2009); *see also e.g. Apex Digital, Inc. v. Sears, Roebuck & Co.*, 572 F.3d 440, 442 (7th Cir. 2009). Therefore, Plaintiff will address this motion as if it has been brought under Rule 12(b)(1). The legal standards for addressing a Rule 12(b)(1) motion has been recently recited by this Court in *Goldberg v. Rush Univ. Med. Ctr.*, 748 F. Supp. 2d 917 (N.D. Ill. 2010) (Castillo, J.).

**I. DEFENDANT'S REQUEST FOR THIS COURT TO TAKE JUDICIAL NOTICE IS IMPROPER**

Although not relevant to whether Plaintiff has standing as Plaintiff was the "called party" as demonstrated below, Defendant appears to ask this Court to take judicial notice that, "Plaintiff obtained a cell phone that was once owned by Ms. Nelson." (Def. Memo p. 3). This Court should not take judicial notice that "Kimberly Nelson" and "Chivette Nelson" are the same person, nor should it take judicial notice that Plaintiff had physically "obtained a cell phone from Ms. Nelson" as these are not matters of public record and are not plead as facts in either case. Furthermore, because Defendant is asserting a Rule 12(b)(1) motion, "the Court is not limited to the pleadings and may consider other submitted evidence." *Goldberg*, 748 F. Supp. 2d 917, n. 9 (*citing Johnson v. Apna Ghar, Inc.*, 330 F.3d 999, 1001 (7th Cir. 2001)). Therefore, Defendant could have submitted to this Court with "evidence", if such exists, to establish the factual basis of what it appears to request this Court to take judicial notice of.

**II. PLAINTIFF AS THE "CALLED PARTY" STATES A VALID CLAIM UNDER THE TELEPHONE CONSUMER PROTECTION ACT**

The TCPA, 47 U.S.C. §227, in pertinent part, provides:

§ 227. Restrictions on use of telephone equipment

(b) Restrictions on use of automated telephone equipment.

(1) Prohibitions. It shall be unlawful for any person within the United States, or any person outside the United States *if the recipient is within the United States*—

(A) *to make any call (other than a call made for emergency purposes or made with the prior express consent of the called party) using any automatic telephone dialing system or an artificial or prerecorded voice—* [\* \* \*]

(iii) *to any telephone number assigned to a* paging service, *cellular telephone service*, specialized mobile radio service, or other radio common carrier service, or any service for which the called party is charged for the call;

(B) to initiate any telephone call to any residential telephone line using an artificial or prerecorded voice to deliver a message without the *prior express consent of the called party*, unless the call is initiated for emergency purposes or is exempted by rule or order by the Commission under paragraph (2)(B); [\* \* \*]

(d) Technical and procedural standards

(3) Artificial or prerecorded voice systems

The Commission shall prescribe technical and procedural standards for systems that are used to transmit any artificial or prerecorded voice message via telephone. Such standards shall require that— [\* \* \*]

(B) *any such system will automatically release the called party's line within 5 seconds of the time notification is transmitted to the system that the called party has hung up, to allow the called party's line to be used to make or receive other calls.*

47 U.S.C. §§ 227(b), (d) (emphasis added).

According to findings by the Federal Communication Commission (“FCC”), the agency Congress vested with authority to issue regulations and orders implementing the TCPA, automated calls to cellular telephones that do not fall under the two narrow exceptions of TCPA § 227(b)(1)(A) are prohibited because, as Congress found, automated or prerecorded telephone calls are a greater nuisance and invasion of privacy than live calls, and such calls can be costly and inconvenient. *Rules and Regulations Implementing the Telephone Consumer Protection Act*

of 1991, CG Docket No. 02-278, Report and Order, 18 FCC Rcd 14014 (2003).

The TCPA authorizes a person or entity to act as a private attorney general to bring suit for any violation of 47 U.S.C. § 227(b). 47 U.S.C. § 227(b)(3) not only provides “a person or entity” actual or statutory damages of \$500 for each violation, which ever is greater, it also permits injunctive relief from future violations. 47 U.S.C. §§ 227(b)(3)(A), (B) and (C). Congress made injunctive relief available to a TCPA plaintiff because it “found that consumers were helpless to prevent such unwanted [ ] calls, and were particularly unable to stop the calls . . . themselves.” See *Lozano v. Twentieth Century Fox Film Corp.*, 702 F. Supp. 2d 999 (N.D. Ill. 2010) (quoting *Abbas v. Seeling Source, LLC*, 2009 WL 4884471, 2009 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 116697 \* 27 (N.D. Ill. Dec. 14, 2009)); See also *Watson v. NCO Group, Inc.*, 462 F. Supp. 2d 641, 644-45 (E.D. Pa. 2006)<sup>1</sup> (finding in a residential line TCPA case that “the Court is convinced that a non-debtor’s rights [under the TCPA] are in fact violated when he is subjected to repeated annoying and abusive debt collection calls that he remains powerless to stop.”).

Defendant however argues that Plaintiff lacks standing because, “a ‘called party’ [under the TCPA] is the *intended recipient of the telephone call*.” (Def. Memo. p. 4) (emphasis added). Taken to its logical conclusion, Defendant’s argument would mean that Chivette Nelson, a person whose phone never rang, and who at all times relevant might not of had or used a telephone, would have a cause of action, not Plaintiff whose phone rang eleven times after she notified defendant that it was calling the wrong person. Congress clearly could not have intended this bizarre outcome and even Defendant’s own trade association, ACA, believes that a non-debtor has a claim under the TCPA for a call placed to a person other than the intended

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<sup>1</sup> *Watson*, has two opinions under the F. Supp. 2d cite. The one cited in this memorandum can be obtained with the LEXIS cite, 2006 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 87499.

debtor; a wrong number. (Am. Compl., ¶¶ 35, 36, 38).

As always, the plain language of the statute is instructive when considering what congress meant when it provided a private right of action. The TCPA refers to the location of the “recipient”<sup>2</sup>, uses the phrase “called party” and provides a private right of action to “a person or entity.” TCPA §§ 227(b)(1), (b)(1)(A), (b)(3). Furthermore, the statute mentions intent in two places: “(other than a call made for emergency purposes...)” and in the willfulness section. TCPA §§ 227(b)(1)(A), (b)(3). Nowhere in the TCPA § 227(b) did Congress ever draft a requirement that in a cell phone case, the called party needed to be the “person from whom the robocaller/collection agency intended to collect money.” Constructing the TCPA to only permit suit by a collection agency’s “intended recipient” of the call, as opposed to the party who receives the call, has the effect of rendering the intended protections of the TCPA, the technical requirements of 47 U.S.C. § 227(d)(3)(B) and its explicit private cause of action provisions meaningless. This would be improper. *Beck v. Prupis*, 529 U.S. 494, 506 (2000) (A court must abide by the “longstanding canon of statutory construction” by reading the statute as a whole, not in a way that by the reading of one provision within the statute it would render another provision meaningless or superfluous.)

The textual provisions of the TCPA demonstrate this. For example, the only affirmative defense available to a TCPA debt collector defendant is to show that it had the “prior express consent of the *called party*” when it made the call. 47 U.S.C. § 227(b)(1)(A) (emphasis added).

It would not make any sense to require Chivette Nelson’s consent to calls made to Plaintiff.

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<sup>2</sup> However, the called party need not actually have received the call to their cell phone for liability under the TCPA to be triggered. *Lozano v. Twentieth Century Fox Film Corp.*, 702 F. Supp. 2d 999 (N.D. Ill. 2010); *CE Design Ltd. v. King Architectural Metals, Inc.*, 09 C 2057, 2010 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 131662 \* 16 (N.D. Ill. Dec. 13, 2010) (*quoting* *Hinman v. M and M Rental Center*, 596 F. Supp. 2d 1152, 1159 (N.D. Ill. 2010) *vacated and remanded on other grounds* 2011 U.S. App. LEXIS 5365 (7th Cir. Mar. 18, 2011)).

Similarly, the TCPA provides that a “person or entity” may request and obtain injunctive relief in the form of an order enjoining a defendant from making further calls. 47 U.S.C. §§ 227(b)(3), (b)(3)(A), (C). It would be nonsensical to read the TCPA in a manner as Defendant suggests, conferring this right upon Chivette Nelson only.

Furthermore section 227(d)’s “technical and procedural standards” section of the TCPA requires that “*any such system* [that transmits any artificial or prerecorded voice message via telephone] *will automatically release the called party’s line within 5 seconds of the time notification is transmitted to the system that the called party has hung up, to allow the called party’s line to be used to make or receive other calls.*” 47 U.S.C. § 227(d)(3)(B) (emphasis added). In this case, a prerecorded message with the name Chivette Nelson was placed into the message by artificial text-to-speech technology was delivered to Plaintiff’s cell phone. (Am. Compl. ¶¶ 19, 24, 27). Inserting Chivette Nelson’s name into section 227(d)’s phrase “called party” does not make sense, “*release [Chivette Nelson’s] line within 5 seconds[,]*” because Chivette Nelson’s phone line a line not engaged by Defendant’s prerecorded message. Under the plain language of the technical requirement of 47 U.S.C. § 227(d)(3)(B), Defendant was required to “*release [Plaintiff’s] line within 5 seconds,*” because Defendant’s prerecorded message engaged Plaintiff’s cell phone line, not Chivette Nelson’s. Clearly the language of 47 U.S.C. § 227(d)(3)(B) is only applicable to the regular user of the cell phone whose telephone number is called. To interpret 47 U.S.C. § 227(d)(3)(B) otherwise, renders the provision meaningless.

Case law interpreting “called party” in other TCPA and telecommunications cases supports Plaintiff’s reading of the phrase too. “Called party refers to the person receiving the call.” *California v. FCC*, 75 F.3d 1350, 1357 n. 9 (9th Cir. 1996). A called party is, “a party



or place to which a call is being made.” *In the Matter of Communications Assistance for Law Enforcement Act*, 17 FCC Rcd 6896, 6911, 2002 FCC LEXIS 1716, \*46, 26 Comm. Reg. (P&F) 540 (April 11, 2002); *see Balbarin v. North Star Capital Acquisition, LLC*, 10 C 1846, 2011 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 686 \* 4-5 (N.D. Ill. Jan. 5, 2011) (the court rejecting the defendant’s standing argument that, “plaintiff lacks standing because the cell phone number at which she was called was registered to her husband is also meritless.”)<sup>3</sup>.

The court’s ruling in *Balbarin* finding that a non-subscriber who was the recipient of the calls to the cell phone she regularly used has standing is sound, because Congress intended that a person who at the time of the call regularly uses the phone is the “called party.” This intent is shown in that Congress used the phrase “called party” into four distinct prohibitions in TCPA § 227(b). In the case of guests and patients in hospitals and health care facilities the “called party” under TCPA §227(b)(1)(A)(ii) will generally *not* be the “subscriber,” and in the case of emergency lines under TCPA §227(b)(1)(A)(i) the “subscriber” of “fire protection or law enforcement agency” is a city or county. Consequently, “called party” cannot be read to mean “subscriber” as the term identifies the person or entity who regularly uses the phone at the time of the autodialed phone call.

Defendant here however takes out of context the *Balbarin* court’s language, “plaintiff was the intended recipient of the call.” *Balbarin*, 2011 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 686 at \* 5; (*See* Def. Memo p. 8). In *Balbarin*, that defendant made the argument that the plaintiff did not have

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<sup>3</sup> In *Balbarin*, the plaintiff was a victim of identity theft and furthermore the thief did not provide the plaintiff’s cell phone number to the credit issuing company. *Balbarin v. North Star Capital Acquisition, LLC*, 10 C 1846 (N.D. Ill.), Doc. 157, p. 4 *citing* Group Exhibit C, Capital One’s records (Redacted). In *Balbarin*, the defendant obtained the plaintiff’s telephone number via skip tracing, from Experian. *Id.*, Doc. 117, pp. 4-5 *citing* Exhibit A, Kuzmitski Deposition; Exhibit B the defendant’s collection notes. Under Defendant Siegel’s argument made here, only the identity thief in *Balbarin* would have standing to pursue a TCPA claim. Such a reading of the TCPA creates a bizarre result.

standing because she was not the “subscriber” of the cell phone. *Balbarin*, 10 C 1846, Doc. 131, p. 4 (N.D. Ill. Dec. 6, 2010) (in which the defendant argued, “the billing statement for the phone in question was also issued in her husband’s name, alone. [*Exhibit A, Deposition of Joanne Balbarin*, pp. 57-64]. The plaintiff thus does not have standing to bring these claims, and is therefore not an adequate class representative.”). In finding that the non-subscriber plaintiff had standing under the TCPA the *Balbarin* court noted that the court in *Cellco*, “reasoned that the relevant language of the TCPA ‘would require the party asserting the claim to be the party to whom the call is directed.’” *Balbarin*, 10 C 1846, 2011 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 5763 \* 3-4 (N.D. Ill. Jan 21, 2011) (citing *Cellco Partnership v. Dealers Warranty, LLC*, No. 09-1814, 2010 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 106719, 2010 WL 3946713 \* at 9 (D.N.J. Oct 5, 2010)). The “to whom the call is directed to” language refers to the regular user of the cell phone, the plaintiff in this case, not Chivette Nelson as Defendant argues, whose phone never rang.

Indeed, the Seventh Circuit in a TCPA junk fax case has used the word “called party” in the context of a “two-way communication” to determine whether there existed a relationship between the entity placing the communication (the “caller”) and the entity that received the communication (the “called party”). *CE Design, Ltd. v. Prism Bus. Media, Inc.*, 606 F.3d 443, 451 (7th Cir. 2010) (emphasis added). Clearly Chivette Nelson, the uncalled party, falls outside the Seventh Circuit’s description of a two-way communication. Here Plaintiff has alleged that Defendant was the caller who placed calls and that Plaintiff was the called party who received the calls. (Am. Compl. ¶¶ 3, 5, 8-9, 19, 24). Furthermore, part of Defendant’s message anticipated that it could be calling a wrong number, and made an explicit command to Plaintiff that if Plaintiff was “not Chivette Nelson to hang up or disconnect”; a two-way communication. (Am. Compl. ¶ 19).

The two-way communication understanding of the Seventh Circuit in a TCPA case between a caller and a called party is further supported that in telecommunications law. *California*, 75 F.3d at 1357 n. 9, *supra*; In *the Matter of Communications Assistance for Law Enforcement Act*, 17 FCC Rcd 6896, 6911, 2002 FCC LEXIS 1716 at \*46, *supra*. For example, one of the principal consumer complaints that led to enactment of the TCPA is that autodialers, “did not disconnect when the called party hung up”, which “created a potential danger of occupying a phone line that an individual may need in an emergency.” Note, *Can Those Telemarketing Machines Keep Calling Me? – The Telephone Consumer Protection Act of 1991 after Moser v. FCC*, 36 Boston Coll. L. Rev. 85, 95 (Dec. 1994). See S. Rep. No. 102-178, 1991 U.S.C.C.A.N. 1968 (1991). This is an injury suffered by the user of the telephone, not by an uncalled person who Defendant “intended to call.” See *Landsman & Funk PC v. Skinder-Strauss Assocs.*, 2011 U.S. App. LEXIS 6786 \* 8 (3rd Cir. Apr. 4, 2011) (noting that in enacting the TCPA Congress noted that improper calls impose a cost on the called party).

Despite Congress’ clear intent that recipients of calls to their cell phones have a private right of action, Defendant cites two *residential line* cases brought pursuant to a different TCPA subsection, *Leyse v. Bank of America* and *Meadows v. Franklin Collection Service, Inc.*, in support of its bizarre “intended called party” argument.

The plaintiff in *Leyse*, was attempting an end run around the stay of the plaintiff’s roommate’s TCPA case which alleged the roommate, not Mr. Leyse, was the residential subscriber. *Leyse v. Bank of Am.*, 09 Civ. 7654 (JGK), 2010 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 58461 \* 1-2, 6, 17 (S.D.N.Y. June 14, 2010). Plaintiff agrees that the *Lesye* court correctly found Mr. Lesye, who was not the residential subscriber, did not have standing under the TCPA when it interpreted standing for a “called party” within the meaning of § 227(b)(1)(B) to mean the person who is

“associated [with] the phone number.” *Id.*, at \* 10-11. Indeed, this quoted language in *Leyse* undermines Defendant’s argument and illustrates that Plaintiff here has standing as Plaintiff is the person associated with the cell phone number. (Am. Compl. ¶¶ 8-9).

Plaintiff however, disagrees with the remainder of the *Leyse* court’s analysis regarding whether an “intended recipient” of the call has standing. Whether a person in a *cellular telephone* case like this is the “intended recipient” of the call is irrelevant because the language of the TCPA regarding calls to cellular telephones does not include such a requirement. Furthermore, the TCPA in *residential line telemarketing situations* expressly uses the phrase “residential telephone subscriber.” In determining the definition of an “established business relationship” under TCPA § 227(a)(2), it expressly incorporates the meaning of the terms used in 47 C.F.R. § 64.1200, which are used in relation to telemarketing call cases. 47 C.F.R. § 64.1200 in pertinent part states:

***No person or entity shall initiate any call for telemarketing purposes to a residential telephone subscriber*** unless such person or entity has instituted procedures for maintaining a list of persons who request not to receive telemarketing calls made by or on behalf of that person or entity. The procedures instituted must meet the following minimum standards:

\* \* \*

- (d)(4) Identification of sellers and telemarketers. A person or entity making a call for telemarketing purposes must provide the ***called party*** with the name of the individual caller, the name of the person or entity on whose behalf the call is being made, and a telephone number or address at which the person or entity may be contacted.

\* \* \*

- (e)(4) The term *established business relationship* for purposes of telephone solicitations means a prior or existing relationship formed by a voluntary ***two-way communication between a person or entity and a residential subscriber***. . . .

47 C.F.R. §§ 64.1200, 64.1200(d)(4), and (e)(4) (emphasis added).

The quoted language above regarding a “residential telephone subscriber” differs from the plain language regarding cell phone violations that explicitly refers to the “recipient” without reference to a “subscriber” of the cellular phone service. 47 U.S.C. §227(b)(1). Therefore, it is clear that *only* in *residential line* cases, such as was the case in *Leyse and Meadows v. Franklin Collection Service, Inc.*, 2011 U.S. App. LEXIS 2779 (11th Cir. 2011) (unpublished)<sup>4</sup>, that Congress intended in that other section of the TCPA to confer standing on the “residential telephone subscriber.”

*Cellco P’ship v. Dealers Warranty, LLC*, 09-1814 (FLW), 2010 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 106719 (D. N.J. Oct. 5, 2010), relied upon by Defendant was filed by Verizon Wireless, a cell phone service provider, [www.verizonwireless.com](http://www.verizonwireless.com), and OnStar, a communication accessory placed primarily in General Motors automobiles, [www.onstar.com](http://www.onstar.com). Neither *Cello* plaintiff pleaded that it actually received an autodialed call from the defendants on its cell phone. *Id.*, at \* 2 (“The allegations giving rise to the instant complaint stem from the purported placement of unsolicited telemarketing calls offering to sell extended auto warranties to millions of subscribers of plaintiffs . . .”). Clearly Verizon and OnStar who did not allege to have received any calls from the defendants, cannot have been the “called party” under the TCPA.

Defendant’s quotation of the *Cellco* court’s opinion that, “the only logical reading of §

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<sup>4</sup> *Meadows*, makes it clear that debt collection calls containing prerecorded messages that are placed to residential lines do not, “violate the TCPA because [ ] prerecorded debt-collection calls are exempt from the TCPA’s prohibitions on such calls to *residences* \* \* \* As the district court noted, the FCC has determined that debt-collection circumstances are excluded from the TCPA’s coverage, and thus the exemptions apply when a debt collector contacts a non-debtor in an effort to collect a debt.” *Meadows*, 2011 U.S. App. LEXIS 2779 at \* 12-13 (emphasis added). Plaintiff’s case here alleges the calls were made to Plaintiff’s *cell phone* and therefore the holding relying of the FCC’s Orders related to *residential lines only* in *Meadows* is inapplicable.

227(b)(1)(A)(iii) is one that would require the party asserting the claim to be the party to whom the call is directed[.]” *Id.*, at \* 31, again undermines Defendant’s position when read in the context of that case. “[T]he party to whom the call is directed” as used by the *Cellco* court, refers to the person who regularly uses and receives calls on the cell phone. *See Id.* (“Plaintiffs are therefore correct in their assertion that under the express language of the TCPA, the question of standing turns on whether the claimant can establish a violation under the TCPA and not on whether it is a ‘consumer.’”); *Id.*, at \* 38-41, 48 (permitting the plaintiffs to file a third amended complaint for regarding those calls made on Verizon concession accounts to which Verizon employees received and for OnStar to allege calls made by defendants that were directly answered by OnStar equipment).

In this case, Defendant dialed Plaintiff’s phone number and connected its call to Plaintiff’s cellular telephone. It does not matter that Defendant intended to collect a debt from someone else. What matters is that it dialed Plaintiff’s phone number using its automated equipment.

This matter is thus similar to *Stuart v. AR Resources, Inc.*, No. 10-3520, 2011 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 27025, 2011 WL 904167 (E.D. Pa. March 16, 2011), which denied the defendant’s motion to dismiss the plaintiff’s TCPA claim. In *Stuart*, the court held that a complaint alleging that defendant placed autodialed calls to her cell phone seeking to collect a debt owed by a member of plaintiff’s family stated a claim for violation of the TCPA. *Id.*, at \*15-18. The facts in *Stuart* were very similar to those in the case at bar in that they both involve a wrong number dialed. *Id.* See also, *Powell v. West Asset Management, Inc.*, 2011 WL 1126040 (N.D. Ill. March 24, 2011) (striking “failure to mitigate” affirmative defense in cell phone TCPA wrong number case against debt collection agency). Likewise, there is no “bona fide error”

defense under the TCPA for dialing an unintended wrong number. The FCC in its July 25, 2003 Order expressly held that calls placed to the wrong number are covered by the TCPA, providing that:

Finally, we reject proposals to create a good faith exception for inadvertent autodialed or prerecorded calls to wireless numbers and proposals to create implied consent because we find that there are adequate solutions in the marketplace to enable telemarketers to identify wireless numbers.

FCC Rules and Regulations Implementing the Telephone Consumer Protection Act (TCPA) of 1991, Docket No. 02-278, FCC 03-153 *reprinted in* 68 F.R. 44144, 44166 (July 25, 2003). ); FCC Release FCC 03-153, 18 FCC Rcd 14014, 14117, 2003 FCC LEXIS 3673; 29 Comm. Reg. (P & F) 830 (June 26, 2003), at par. 172. The FCC ruling was not challenged by a petition filed in the Court of Appeals within the requisite time, and is thus unchallengeable. *CE Design, Ltd. v. Prism Business Media, Inc.*, 606 F.3d 443, 446-48 (7th Cir. 2010).

Likewise, Defendant's own trade association's, ACA, position on collection calls made to wrong persons points out the same, that autodialed calls to persons other than the debtor the collector is attempting to contact can trigger liability under the TCPA. (Am. Compl. ¶¶ 35, 36, 38).

Further undermining Defendant's position is authority supporting the position that a recipient of the calls, the "called party" can revoke "express prior consent." *In re Rules and Regulations Implementing the TCPA*, GC Docket 02-278; 07-232 at 7, n. 37; *Sengenberger v. Credit Control Svcs., Inc.*, 09 C 2796, 2010 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 43874 \* 4-5, 10 (N.D. Ill., May 5, 2010) *reconsideration granted by, Adhered to* 2010 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 142528 (N.D. Ill. June 17, 2010) (consumer requested that the defendant stop its collection calls). Under Defendant's self-serving, nonsensical, theory, defendant needed Chivette Nelson's "prior express consent" to

call plaintiff's cell phone. Indeed until Plaintiff filed this suit Defendant ignored Plaintiff's statement to it that Defendant was calling the wrong number.

Additionally, one court has found for a plaintiff where the defendant dialed his cell phone, a number the plaintiff had alleged he did not provided to his original creditor, in rejecting the defendant's arguments of implied consent and that it reasonably relied on the seller of the debt to provide the appropriate contact information. *Edeh v. Midland Credit Management, Inc.*, 2010 WL 3893604, 2010 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 103888 \* 2-3, 16 (D. Minn., Sept. 29, 2010). The holding in *Edeh*, supports Plaintiff's position that it is the individual who is associated with the cell phone number, the user of the cell phone at the time it is called, is the "called party" who must provide "express prior consent" to the autodialed phone call.

Therefore, to insert the requirement that the party with standing in a TCPA cellular telephone case is the "intended recipient" as Defendant suggests, would be contrary to the plain language of the statute, the technical requirements of the statute, the intent of the statute, FCC Orders, case law and would make the remedy provisions of TCPA § 227(b)(3) meaningless. Therefore, this Court should deny Defendant's 12(b)(1) Motion to Dismiss as under the TCPA as Plaintiff, the "called party" of Defendant's calls, has standing to seek redress.

### CONCLUSION

For the reasons stated above, this Honorable Court should deny Defendant's motion to dismiss.

Respectfully submitted,

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### CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, Curtis C. Warner, hereby certify that on **May 10, 2011**, I filed electronically **Plaintiff's Response in Opposition to Defendant's Motion to Dismiss** using the Court's CM/ECF system, which automatically will send notice to those parties who have appeared and are so registered to the following:

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